

# AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL



GEORGE W. YORK,  
Editor.

CHICAGO, ILL., FEBRUARY 28, 1901.

FORTY-FIRST YEAR  
No. 9.

WEEKLY



QUEEN-BEE (Magnified) AND EGG.  
(Photograph from life.)

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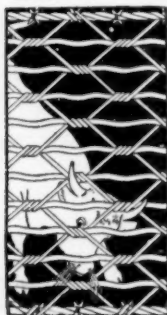
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SA4t Mention the American Bee Journal.



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has fallen at intervals conducive to the most good. We may reasonably expect enough more rain to round out the year, not only to the benefit of the apiary, but to all other industries which receive good from it.

I do not think there will be any overproduction of honey, however favorable the season may be, because so many apiaries are in such poor condition. It will take most of the season to get the colonies in good working order again, therefore I do not anticipate that the Eastern market will be overstocked with California honey.

My year is up, and I want the American Bee Journal for another year, because of the benefit I derive from it.

ALBERT ROZELL.

Los Angeles Co., Calif., Jan. 28.

### Farmers and Sweet Clover.

We have had two poor seasons here, but the indications are fair for a good honey crop next season.

Farmers in this vicinity have begun to see the benefits of sweet clover. One of the leading farmers of this section sowed 10 acres of corn to sweet clover last July, and says he will get two crops of hay next summer, plow the third crop under, and raise wheat on the land the next season. Thus he raises a full crop each year, and improves his land by the rotting of crops, which he says is the cheapest fertilizer he can get. He expects to plant another 10 acres of corn next spring, and the latter part of July or the first of August sow sweet clover seed among the corn, and in this way will not lose the use of his land any year. He thinks the clover improves the yield of wheat about 10 bushels to the acre. He has been experimenting with it for several years. He intends to commence keeping bees, and if he does he will make a success of it.

C. W. SNYDER.

Garfield Co., Utah, Jan. 24.

### Poor Prospects for Next Season.

I have 80 colonies of bees in 8-frame Langstroth hives, and run them for comb honey. As the past season was a poor one in this locality they did not average above 20 pounds per colony, and I do not think that the honey-crop of Utah would average more than 10 pounds per colony.

Foul brood has been quite prevalent here the past two years; it seems that the disease has a tendency to follow a poor season.

The prospects for the coming season are not very bright; we depend upon irrigation for bee-forage, and as but little snow has fallen up to date, if we do not get more the season will be disastrous indeed to both farmers and bee-keepers.

E. B. NELSON.

Utah Co., Utah, Jan. 28.

### Bee-Moths and Millers in Apple-Trees.

I had 25 colonies of bees during the past season, 20 of which I had under the grape-vines, and 5 in the orchard under the apple-trees. Only one colony out of the 20 under the grape-vines was bothered with moths, while all 5 of those under the apple-trees had moths in them. I put two under a crab-apple tree which bore deep-red apples, one

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under a fall apple-tree which bore apples about the color of lemons, and two under a winter apple-tree, the apples having a brownish color (rusty coats), and the worms from these trees dropt on the hives underneath them, and workt their way into the hives and around the sides, and in each instance the worms were the color of the apples in the tree above the hive on which they fell.

It is my opinion that the worms that fall from the trees and crawl into the hives are the color of the tree from which they came until they become millers.

The worms which got into the colony under the grape-vines were of a natural color.

I went into the country to visit a friend, and while I was there he made apple-cider, and askt me to help him, which I did. We went to the orchard and gathered the very best of the apples, cutting out the cores and all the rotten and worm-eaten spots. After throwing the cores away I noticed hundreds of millers gathering on them, then I lookt up and saw as many among the trees, and some of them alighted on the apples. The next morning I examined the apples, and found that the millers were stinging them, and planting their eggs in those that were ripe or matured. The millers sting the apples at the stem, at the blossom end, and on all sides, and when the eggs are hatcht into worms they work themselves toward the heart of the apple.

I would like to know if it does any good to spray the trees while they are in blossom. Some of our professors claim that the eggs that are laid in the blossoms are killed when the trees are sprayed. I do not believe it does any good to spray the trees, as my observation is that the millers plant their eggs in the apples after they have matured. AUGUST ROSENBERGER.

Iroquois Co., Ill., Dec. 10, 1900.

[See the article on spraying fruit, on page 120 of this number.—EDITOR.]

#### Convention Notice.

California.—The annual convention of the California State Bee-Keepers' Association, will be held in the Chamber of Commerce, at Los Angeles, Feb. 25 and 26, 1901, beginning at 1:30 p.m., on the 25th. Several valuable papers have been promised, and we expect an interesting convention. J. F. MCINTYRE, Sec.

R. WILKIN, Pres.

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6A3t

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## HONEY AND BEESWAX

MARKET QUOTATIONS.

CHICAGO, Jan. 19.—Honey is selling slowly; this applies to all grades with the exception of white clover and basswood comb honey, which sells readily at 16c providing it grades No. 1 or better. All other kinds of white comb honey sell at from 14@15c, and candied white comb at from 8@10c; travel-stained and off-grades of comb, 13@14c; amber, 12@13c; amber extracted, 7@7½c; dark and buckwheat comb honey, 9@10c. Extracted, white, 7c, 7½@8c; basswood and white clover bringing the outside prices; buckwheat and other dark grades, 6@6½c. Beeswax, 28c. R. A. BURNETT & Co.

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 22.—Fancy white comb, 15@17c; amber, 13@14c; dark, 9@11c; demand good. Extracted, 7@9c; demand quiet. Beeswax, 20@30c.

W. R. CROMWELL PRODUCE CO., Successors to C. C. Clemens & Co.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 9.—The market for comb honey is becoming very bare, altho the prices have not changed. Fancy white comb is still selling for 16c; no demand for darker grades. Extracted is in fair demand; dark sells for 5½c; better grades from 6½@8c; only white clover brings from 8½@9c. Beeswax, 28c.

C. H. W. WEBER.

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 11.—Honey market is dull and prices nominal; light stock, but the cold weather is bad for it. Comb, in good order, not candied, white, 15@16c; mixt, 13@14c; dark and buckwheat, 11@12c. Extracted, white, 7@8c; mixt, 6@6½c; dark, 5@6c.

H. R. WRIGHT.

BUFFALO, Feb. 8.—Some more active this week, and may clean up better than expected awhile ago. Fancy 1-pound comb, 15@16c; No. 1, 14@15c; No. 2, 12@13c; dark, buckwheat, etc., 8@10c. Beeswax, 25@26c. BATTERSON & Co.

BOSTON, Feb. 8.—Fancy No. 1 white in cartons, 17c; A No. 1, 16c; No. 1, 15@16c, with a fairly good demand. Absolutely no call for dark honey this year. Extracted, white, 8@8½c; light amber, 7½@8c. Beeswax, 27c.

BLAKE, SCOTT & LEE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—Fancy white, 15@16c; No. 1 white, 14c; No. 2 white 12@13c; amber, 12c; buckwheat, 10@11c. Extracted in fairly good demand at 7½@8c for white, and 7c for amber; off grades and Southern in barrels at from 65@75c per gallon, according to quality. Not much demand for extracted buckwheat as yet. Some little selling at 5½@6c. Beeswax firm at 28 cents.

Demand continues good for comb honey; supply fairly good. Extracted in fair demand with enough supply to meet requirements.

HILDRETH & SEGELKEN.

DETROIT, Jan. 19.—Fancy white comb, 15@16c; No. 1, 13@14c; dark and amber, 12@13c. Extracted, white, 7@7½c; amber and dark, 6@6½c. Beeswax, 26@27c. M. H. HUNT & SON.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 9.—White comb 13@14 cents; amber, 11½@12½c; dark, 8@9c. Extracted, white, 7½@8c; light amber 6½@7½c; amber, 5½@6½c. Beeswax, 26@28c.

Stocks of all descriptions are light, and values are being as a rule well maintained at the quoted range. Firmness is naturally most pronounced on light amber and water white honey, the latter being in very scanty supply.

HONEY MARKET.—We may have a customer within a short distance of you who wants your honey or beeswax. We are in close touch with all the markets; therefore write us regarding your crop, stating quantity, quality, and lowest cash price. References—Either Bank here for any business man in this city.

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# THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

**GEORGE W. YORK & CO.**

144 &amp; 146 Erie St., Chicago, Ill.

Entered at the Post-Office at Chicago as Second-Class Mail-Matter.

**IMPORTANT NOTICES:**

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**National Bee Keepers' Association****OBJECTS:**

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To prevent the adulteration of honey.

To prosecute dishonest honey commission-men.

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We would suggest that those bee-keepers who did not produce enough honey for their home demand this year, just order some of the above, and sell it. And others, who want to earn some money, can get this honey and work up a demand for it almost anywhere.

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# AMERICAN ESTABLISHED IN 1861 BEE JOURNAL THE OLDEST BEE-PAPER IN AMERICA

41st YEAR.

CHICAGO, ILL., FEBRUARY 28, 1901.

No. 9.

## \* Editorial. \*

### Joining the National in a Body.

Several local associations have already taken advantage of the provision in the constitution of the National Bee-Keepers' Association, which reads as follows:

"Whenever a local bee-keepers' association shall decide to unite with this Association as a body, it will be received upon payment by the local secretary of 50 cents per member per annum, provided that the local association's membership dues are at least \$1.00."

Referring to this matter in a recent letter to this office, Dr. A. B. Mason said:

EDITOR YORK:—I have just forwarded a draft to General Manager Secor for the amount of fees required to make the members of the Cayuga Co., N. Y., Bee-Keepers' Society members of our National Bee-Keepers' Association. Also, I have just received a letter from the Worcester Co., Mass., Bee-Keepers' Society, making enquiry as to the terms on which their organization of 40 members can join the National.

Won't you just suggest that all the local bee-keepers' societies on this continent "go and do likewise?" Also add that it is necessary to send the name and post-office address of each member with the membership fee.

A. B. MASON.

LATER.—I have just received a letter from General Manager Secor, saying: "New members are coming in all the time, and the finances are in a healthy condition." That's the kind of a "ring" to have, and to hear, and to belong to.

A. B. M.

We are indeed glad to learn of more bee-keepers' societies taking advantage of the low membership fee when joining the National in a body. We believe the Wisconsin State Bee-Keepers' Association was the first thus to join, and was followed by the Chicago Bee-Keepers' Association a month or two later. At the recent meeting of the Wisconsin Association the memberships were renewed for both the State and the National associations. This is just as it should be.

The fact that more organizations are "enquiring the way" is a healthy sign, and should ultimately increase very largely both the membership and the treasury of the National. It will be surprising to all, what can be done in many ways when bee-keepers once unite, not only to defend themselves, but to push their interests on every occasion when to do so is both proper and right.

We have been greatly encouraged during the past month or two on account of receiving so many membership fees at this office, all of which have been duly forwarded to General Manager Secor, who doubtless has promptly mailed individual membership receipts. We

are ready and willing at all times to receive such dues and send them to Mr. Secor.

We wish there might be more local societies organized under the provision of the National constitution, as before quoted, and that all such local organizations might see their way clear to elect say two delegates to the National convention each year. This would not only be an honor conferred upon those delegates, but would furnish the kind of representation in the National that every local association should have. Suppose there were 50 local associations scattered over the United States and Canada, each one of which should send two of their best men to represent them in the National Association. If the representatives would attend the National there would be an assured attendance of 100 of the best bee-keepers in all the country. This of itself would insure a great convention, to say nothing of the attendance of bee-keepers residing within 100 or 200 miles of the place of holding the National convention. Of course, there should be more than 50 local societies in the United States alone.

What we would like to see is this: Let there be county and district associations holding an annual meeting, and sending one or two delegates each to the annual State convention; and each State association send two delegates to the National. This would give representation to the humblest members of the pursuit. Membership dues of \$1.00 in the county or district association should be sufficient to make each bee-keeper a member of all three organizations. Twenty-five cents of the \$1.00 can be retained by the local association; 25 cents to be sent to the State organization; and 50 cents to the National, just as is provided for now.

We fully believe this scheme is entirely workable, and that some arrangement ought to be made at the next National convention providing for this plan or something similar. We are ready to co-operate along any line that will give promise of unifying the bee-keepers, and building up an organization that will be able to take care of their interests.

**The Anti-Bee-Legislation**, as recently proposed in the Wisconsin Legislature, has received its deserved quietus. Mr. N. E. France, president of the State Bee-Keepers' Association, wrote us as follows about the matter, Feb. 9th:

"This morning the Legislative Agricultural Committee at Madison, reported for indefinite postponement, on Bill 193A—to assess and tax bees, also to license moving bees to any other town than owner's residence."

Mr. France has been working almost night and day since the State bee-keepers' meeting, Feb. 5th and 6th, to accomplish the above

action. We knew he would be successful, for there was rank injustice in the bill referred to. For instance, the great poultry industry of Wisconsin is not taxed. Why, then, tax bees, which are so much more uncertain stock than is poultry? Personally, we think bees should be taxed at a small value per colony, but not before poultry is put on the property list.

Again, the bill proposed to tax those bee-keepers who desired to practice migratory bee-keeping. It provided that any bee-keeper who desired to move his apiary to another field where the bees might take advantage of a better honey-flow, must pay a license fee of \$1.00 per colony per month before being allowed to move into another township. That is, if he had 100 colonies which he wished to move to another field for four months, he would have to pay a license fee of \$400!

No sane legislators would favor such injustice, we are very certain.

**The Apiary of Mr. F. M. Wagner** is shown in two views on page 135. No. 1 presents it with the revolving roof in a horizontal position to shade the hives from the noonday sun. No. 2 shows the roof on a slant to protect from the afternoon summer sun, or from chilling winter blasts.

In a letter accompanying the photographs, Mr. Wagner says:

The hives are the 10-frame, with an all-wool blanket between the brood-chamber and the super, but held up from the frames so the bees can pass over from frame to frame. The super is then filled lightly with short straw. The ventilation seems to be enough for this climate [Adams Co., Ill.], under a trial of four winters—south of the 40th parallel, and three miles east of the Mississippi River.

**Value of Bees to Alsike Clover.**—Secretary Couse, of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association, said at the last convention that the nearer a field of Alsike clover is to an apiary the better the yield of clover seed. He had applications from two men who wished him to locate bees near them. The value of bees to fruit-growers and farmers is being proven over and over as time goes on. Ignorance is a hard thing to overcome, but it's yielding more and more.

**Tin Cans vs. Barrels.**—Mr. J. H. Martin, in *Gleanings in Bee-Culture*, offers another argument in favor of tin cans for shipping honey. He says: "Freight rates on honey in tin cans cased, from California to the East, are \$1.10 per 100 pounds; on honey in barrels, \$1.30 per 100 pounds; on honey in glass, \$1.30 per 100 pounds. Observe honey in barrels and glass is in the same class. The railroad companies evidently know where the greatest risks are."

Comment is unnecessary.

## Weekly Budget

PROF. A. J. COOK writes us that the "bull-dog ant" of Florida, mentioned on page 72, is "*Camponotus esuriens*, Smith," which he learned from Dr. L. O. Howard, entomologist of the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

THE OFFICIARY of the Ontario Co., N. Y., Bee-Keepers' Association is as follows: President, W. F. Marks; vice-presidents, H. L. Case, John Page, Chester Olmstead; secretary, F. Greiner, of Naples; treasurer, L. B. Smith; and honey inspector, E. H. Perry.

MRS. ARTIE BOWEN, of Merced Co., Calif., writing us Feb. 12th, said:

"I think this is going to be a good honey-year in California. The bees in this locality have wintered well so far, and our winter is about over. The almonds are coming into bloom, and within two weeks our orchards will be in full bloom."

MR. W. E. FLOWER, of Montgomery Co., Pa., is one of the noted bee-cranks around Philadelphia. He it was who gave a short illustrated talk on bees when the National convention met there in 1899. It was enjoyed by all. We understand that he expects to give another talk on the same subject at Franklin Institute very soon. There will be a male quartette to sing "The Hum of the Bees in the Apple-Tree Bloom," accompanied

by piano, cornet, and two violins. They are good players and singers, as they all belong to the church choir of which Mr. Flower is a member, and they will doubtless make things hum. Mr. Flower expects to have a lot of new slides to show, and very likely some new jokes and stories to help entertain his audience. Mr. Flower knows how to do it, and will be able to give a good entertainment.

MR. L. HIGHBARGER, of Ogle Co., Ill., writes us that during the meeting of the National convention in Chicago last August, he suffered a stroke of paralysis so that he had to leave for his home before the close of the meeting. It left his nervous system in bad condition, especially affecting his eyes, so that it is very difficult for him either to read or write. He was 73 years old last New Year's day. All will unite in hoping that he may soon recover. He reports his bees as wintering well.

REV. A. B. METTLER, of Will Co., Ill., whose questions were answered on page 99, writes us that the only birthday he ever had was Feb. 1, 1844, and that all the February 1sts since that time have been *anniversaries*! That's very good. We will forgive him for the joke, seeing he sent his dollar membership fee for the National Bee-Keepers' Association.

BISHOP WM. A. BILLS, of Salt Lake Co., Utah, wrote us Feb. 15th that bees were a failure in Salt Lake county last year, tho in previous years he had over 350 pounds of honey per colony. He sent us two clippings about bee-keeping in Uintah Co., Utah, men-

tioning one firm of bee-keepers who had 160 colonies of golden Italian bees that averaged 331½ pounds per colony last season. Ashley Valley, in which is located this bee-keepers' paradise, is about 20 miles long by 6 wide. Vernal, the county seat, is a busy little city, and is centrally located in this valley. It is a progressive town, with neatly-graded streets, paved sidewalks, and well-equip business-houses. In the matter of taxes it stands as a model. It has never levied what is known as a town tax, and is absolutely free from debt, with a balance in the treasury. Very likely they are not curst with saloons.

Bee-keeping seems to be a new industry in Ashley Valley, but it is making astonishing strides, and one that promises to forge still further ahead in this sterile desert section. The honey-source is principally alfalfa, and the grade produced is of the best. Aside from the local consumption, 340,000 pounds were shipped last season, netting the producers 5 cents per pound. The success which has followed the efforts of bee-keepers in that part of the State is encouraging them to equip their apiaries with the latest appliances, which shows an intelligent grasp of the business. It is a little less than marvelous that so much real sweetness should be found in what was once such a desert-like and forbidding region.

MR. G. GLEYSTEN, of Sioux Co., Iowa, wrote us as follows Feb. 14th:

"The American Bee Journal is a welcome visitor each week. I could not get along without it. By the way, the wood binder is just the thing. Every subscriber should have one so he can file away the journals each week, and always have them all together, ready for any reference he might want."

## Convention Proceedings.

Report of the Proceedings of the 31st Annual Convention of the National Bee-Keepers' Association, held at Chicago, Ill., Aug. 28, 29 and 30, 1900.

BY DR. A. B. MASON, SEC.

(Continued from page 122.)

Pres. Root—We will now listen to Mr. R. C. Aikin, on the subject of

### CO-OPERATIVE ORGANIZATION AMONG BEE-KEEPERS.

To organize is proper, right, and just. Like all else, organized combinations may be powerful for good or evil, according to the inclinations and desires of the organized. Condemn not organization, only its improper use.

Never in the history of the world have there been times of so great organization as at the present. Unions, associations, syndicates, trusts, etc., exist on every side. Were it not for organized business and social affairs, we never would have reached the heights of luxury, wealth, and power, now enjoyed by the present age. Even the anarchist organizes to break down governmental order. We organize for mutual help in all lines of business, industries, education, religion, and government.

But for what shall the bee-keepers combine? This, our national association, is largely social and scientific, with a little business mixt in now and then, and a mutual protection against unjust financial and moral enemies. So far this is good, but it does not cover, by a long way, the ground

it should to help the people where they need it most, in properly distributing our product.

These are days of specialism as well as organization and co-operation. More and more do we become dependent upon one another in all our affairs, as we grow in organized work. How long would our government, the postal system, railroads, churches, schools, and the very many great organizations, stand, if it were not for the co-operation features of those concerned? It is plain common-sense that in these days when specialism is everywhere prevalent, in almost everything, that those who produce our food—wheat, corn, potatoes, butter, eggs, meat, fruits, etc.—there should be co-operation.

But what is the great need of the bee-keeper to-day—in what particular direction should he co-operate to obtain best results? Is it on the social side? Surely not. We have social facilities in our organizations here and there, and in our class journals. The crying need of to-day is business co-operation.

Producers bring their wheat and other grain to the elevator; cattle, hogs and sheep to the stock-yards; and fruits to the fruit depot. In every producing locality, the products of that territory find buyers and places to deliver and store the products—facilities for handling. Just take one good look at the facilities everywhere established for the accommodation of the principal products, note that if I produce ten bushels of wheat and my neighbor his hundreds or thousands, there is one common price and I can take my ten bushels and sell it and have my check just as quickly and surely as the large producer on hundreds.

Now turn your gaze upon our apicultural products—can you go to town, *any* and *every* town, and *any* day, and there sell your products? You may sell a few pounds or cases to your local dealer, just what he needs for immediate retail. Should you produce more than the half dozen cases or so your grocer wants, and want to get cash out of it, what will you do? Well, ship it to some city market such as Denver, Kansas City, Omaha, Chicago, or other practical market: "consign" it to somebody you do not know, *take all the chances* yourself, get your money when you can in the



"sweet by-and-by," or order honey pushed onto the market, which means to give it away. Looks gloomy, doesn't it?

Honey-producers are so scattered, the product so limited in a given locality, that there is no inducement to put in proper facilities for the handling of the goods. Comb honey is somewhat regular and has a reasonable standing, but extracted, as handled by most producers, must not get out of sight of the producer until it is eaten, for you know he must "take it back and liquefy it." While almost every other product can be sold at any and all times, and for spot cash, honey must beg to be taken in dribs!

Tell me, if sugar would go liquid in the grocery, must the manufacturers take it back and regranulate? Is there any other product aside from extracted honey that must remain under the oversight of the producer or manufacturer until consumed? Answer me that, and you may have a little consideration for the custom of "taking back" honey to liquefy. If we must liquefy, then good-by to the industry as a settled business, or extracted honey as a staple. But I am slightly digressing.

Since it is so that the honey product is scattered, produced by littles here and there, it comes that there is no ready market for it locally. True, each producer sells more or less about home; but the trouble is, we who are poor and must realize on our product, and do it quickly, can not wait months to deal out in little dribs a small crop of honey. Those who produce by the littles—a few hundred pounds of honey, a few acres of corn, of apples, wheat, and of such a few bushels; a half dozen hogs, one or two beeves, etc.—such are the masses, and are the people that must and will sell, and just as soon as possible after the product is available. These small producers are said to ruin prices, and the charge is true to a limited extent. But can we blame these people? and after all what can we do? They are at the mercy of the more opulent buyer, or they perhaps must realize, and that quickly, and since there may not be a demand for their product and it is too small to ship to distant points, they are practically compelled to force the market, and the stock sells for less than its real and true value, and so prices are not what they should be.

It is necessary, then, that provision be made whereby, especially the small producer, may have a market for his product. The large producer is told to buy up the little lots and so get them out of the way, but large producers have difficulties to face, too. It does not take many little lots to require several hundreds of dollars—even thousands—to buy them. The large producer has to face the fact that if he competes in the general markets, and with other large producers and shippers, he must produce and ship in carlots, and to do this causes him to reach out to the limit of his own capital and ability. Yes, even the large producers, too, are struggling to keep from being eaten up by the still larger fish.

In these days when our products are transported hundreds and thousands of miles to be distributed—in reality exchanged for other products which we have not in our own localities, but which we think we must have, and social conditions almost compel us to have—there must be facilities for carrying out the exchange economically.

Look again at the immensity of the systems of transportation of products. The packing companies have their special cars. Then there are the fruit-cars specially designed to transport fruits and deliver them successfully at distant points; and grain, sheep and cattle cars. Not only this, but everywhere distributed thruout the country are both the gathering and distributing facilities. The large cities have their commission-houses with a side honey department, but what of it? Small producers, 500 or 1,000 miles from these places, do not want to consign. They can not afford the local freights and other expenses. The 10 or 20 cases of comb honey of the small producer, mean more to him than do the hundreds of cases of the large producers and commission and other dealers to them. These small producers have honey to sell, and must sell.

What we want, then, most of all, is the facilities for gathering the product and relieving the poor small producer by paying him for his honey and wax. These facilities must reach out from some central place and come close enough to the little apiaries so that their product can be delivered to the buyer with the very minimum of railroad freights. That such system is very much needed is surely evident, but as yet the solution of the difficulty is not clear. Many difficulties lie in the way, yet none but can be overcome.

I shall not attempt to lay down set rules to govern in working out this question, it can come only by co-operation. I say by co-operation, but not by it pure and simple, accord-

ing to the general acceptance of the term. I think I know enough of human nature to know that this Association can not in open convention work out such problems and carry them to completion. We have ideas as to what we need, but how to obtain the results we do not know, each guessing at what is needed and advising, yet there will be such diversity of opinions that no tangible thing can be arrived at. Your humble servant has been thru the mill and knows a few of the difficulties to contend with, how a convention will wrangle, and suggest, and advise, and demand, etc., then in the end tell a committee to go ahead and bring order out of chaos, yet not a dollar for the expense of doing it.

Discussion in convention is all right, and appointing committees is all right, but committees need financial help. Select for the committees straight, honest men—men who are the most familiar with the business world and methods, who have the facilities to obtain information and results. Remember that we must do much as we can, not as we like. We want to put our product as near where it ought to be as possible, but in doing this we have great difficulties to surmount.

Having selected proper organizing committees and given them necessary funds to carry on the work, empower them to act—I would say almost absolute power. When your committee runs against unforeseen stumps they can not wait for another annual meeting to get instructions how to pull up or get around that stump. They must act, so give them full power. Here is the weak place—the people can not or will not see the great difficulties in the way, get discouraged, or jealous, or fault-finding.

In organizing, remember that there are State and other laws to comply with, there are business customs that you can not ignore, that others have rights as well as you, and that your purpose is not to set arbitrary prices and make extravagant demands. You want to get in touch with the whole world so far as possible, for in these days even oceans do not separate neighbors and co-operators. Strive to understand each other. Help others and thereby help self. Two, three, or more, producers should sell together. Do not think for one minute that there is or can be over-production—no, never, while our neighbors just across the waters are starving by the millions.

When the bee-keepers are fully organized in a co-operative way, the head national office will know what you and I are doing, north, east, south, and west. The sub-State offices will know what is known at the general head, and in turn transmit to the various local branches or to the individual members. Tho there is never over-production, there is lack of distribution. Let us then co-operate that we may every one of us know what the crop is in every part of our land. Let the distribution be equal, and the prices proportionate according to supply and demand.

Is it a mighty undertaking? Yes, but results would be mighty. Will it harm anybody? Yes, just about as you are harmed by the complete postal system that takes in almost the world and carries your mail almost for nothing.

Do you catch the spirit? Then proceed to co-operate. Some are now at it, but hampered by the utter indifference, jealousies, or greed, of the many. To help a brother helps you; to tear him down destroys both. R. C. AIKIN.

Pres. Root—The matter is now open for discussion. Mr. Aikin comes from a State where they have an organization that carried out some of the ideas he has advanced here. They are not merely theoretical, but they are put in practice and do produce results. Many of you probably have not had any experience in this line and possibly do not care to discuss it.

Pres. Root—Dr. Mason has a matter that he wishes to bring up before the Convention before we close. Are you ready to present it at this time?

(Continued next week.)

"The Hum of the Bees in the Apple-Tree Bloom" is the name of the finest bee-keeper's song—words by Hon. Eugene Secor and music by Dr. C. C. Miller. This is thought by some to be the best bee-song yet written by Mr. Secor and Dr. Miller. It is, indeed, a "hummer." We can furnish a single copy of it postpaid, for 10 cents, or 3 copies for 25 cents. Or, we will mail a half-dozen copies of it for sending us one new yearly subscription to the American Bee Journal at \$1.00.

The Premiums offered this week are well worth working for. Look at them.

## Contributed Articles.

### Pure Italian Bees—Old or Young Bees in the Super—Swarming.

BY G. M. DOOLITTLE.

A CORRESPONDENT sends in some questions and wishes me to answer them thru the columns of the American Bee Journal. His first question is, "Can a five-banded queen be bred—or a queen whose bees are five-banded—from pure Italian queens?"

I unhesitatingly answer no, for the simple reason that there is no such thing as a *pure* Italian bee or queen, when viewed in the sense of a pure race or variety, as the German or black bee is pure. At best, the Italian bee is only a thorobred; and that these five-banded bees have been produced from what was originally only three-banded or leather-colored bees, is a good proof that the above assertion is correct.

Perhaps it may be well for me to give right here a bit of history relative to these so-called five-banded bees—the "golden Italian" more nearly expresses what they are, for there are many queens in this country to-day which give bees whose abdomens are a solid golden or orange yellow the whole length, except the tip; no bands whatever to be seen as on three and four-banded stock. The history is this:

In the early seventies, H. A. King, then of Ohio, and Jas. M. Brooks, of Indiana, were breeding for yellower bees than the average importations of Italians showed. In 1872 I procured some of Mr. King's stock, and continued to improve them till near the eighties, the apicultural world having lost sight of Mr. King, meanwhile. At that time, by exchange, I procured queens of Mr. Brooks, and afterward, by purchase, got the last of his very best stock, he going out of the business. In the early eighties I sold one of the best queens I could rear, along the yellow line, to L. L. Hearn, then of West Virginia, he and myself exchanging more or less for the next ten years. And, if I am correct, all of the so-called five-banded bees, of *Italian origin*, that are in the world to-day, spring from the King-Brooks stock. Others produced the so-called five-banded bees by a promiscuous crossing of Cyprian, Syrian and Italian stock, but such have shown their origin by their bad qualities, to a greater degree than either parentage.

#### OLD OR YOUNG BEES WORKING IN THE SUPER.

The second question is, "Is it the old or young bees that work in the surplus arrangement? I had supposed it was the younger bees, but a neighbor contends that it is the old bees."

Tell that neighbor of yours, if he will try the experiment of changing a black queen for an Italian about June 20th, some year, noting the time the first Italian bee hatches, and on the forenoon of the 14th day from that time look at the entrance of the hive, he will find none but black bees issuing therefrom: while if he removes the cover from the surplus arrangement he will find nearly all of the bees there to be Italian. If he does not so find, his experiment will prove different from any I have ever tried, and I have tried such experiments several times.

When a colony is in a normal condition, I have found what Elisha Gallup gave in the American Bee Journal during the early seventies, to be quite correct, namely this:

Three days in the egg form, six days in the larval form, and 12 days in the pupa form, making a period of 21 days from the egg to the perfect bee. Very warm weather will hasten the matter, while very cool will retard. The bee when it first emerges from the cell does nothing but feed itself for the first day or two, when it commences to become a nurse-bee, preparing chyme for the larvae, evaporating nectar, secreting wax, building comb, etc., till it is 14 to 16 days old. The young bee takes its first flight or playspell, marking its location, voiding its excrement, etc., when six days old, if the weather is favorable, doing this from 12 to 3 p. m., and it continues these playspells occasionally till it is from 14 to 16 days old, when it goes out into the fields as a field-worker, doing no more of the inside work of the hive after becoming a field-worker, unless forced to by a lack of nurse-bees, from some reason, and dies of old age

at from six to eight weeks from time of emerging from its cell, very few bees ever seeing seven weeks of age during the working season.

In the above I have not given the exact wording of Mr. Gallup, but the substance, as I quote from memory, not having the volume in which it appeared. No beginner, or older apiarist, should be without the knowledge contained in the above, for upon it hangs much that goes toward making the management of an apiary successful.

#### OLD OR YOUNG BEES IN A NEW SWARM.

Thirdly, the correspondent wants to know if the "bees composing a new swarm are all old bees," his neighbor claiming they are.

The truth is, that bees of all ages go out to make up the swarm, as is very easily ascertained by any one who will use his eyes with the view of finding out about this matter. I have seen the ground in front of a hive from which a prime swarm was issuing, covered with hundreds of bees under 12 hours old, which tried to accompany the swarm, but were not able to fly, so they went out on foot; and on hiving the swarm, a little inspection showed that it was composed of bees of all ages, from those 20 hours old, or bees just barely able to fly, to those with ragged wings, just ready to die of old age. In this, as in all nature, God made no mistake, when he showed bees how those of all ages should accompany the swarm, when they heeded the mandate, "Go forth, multiply, and replenish the earth."

By a careful observation of the bees and the inside workings of the hive, we can solve many of what seem difficult problems to us at first. And in the solving of these problems, we are growing up into our apicultural work in a manner that will make us finally efficient in every particular.

Onondaga Co., N. Y.



### Shipping Queens by Mail—Unusual Experience.

BY O. O. POPPLETON.

ONE is very apt to give a wrong impression whenever he allows himself to make a simple statement without giving an explanation or reasons for that statement. This was especially true of the statement I made during the late Chicago convention, while the question of shipping queens by mail was being discussed—that I had "abandoned the ordering of queens by mail." Of course, the inference was that the mails were responsible for the poor quality of the most of my queens obtained that way, which was only true to a limited extent.

For some reason which I can not explain, I have failed in getting even a fair proportion of queens that would do well. This applies only to the queens I have received since I came South—not to those received when I lived in Iowa. The fact that 15 or 20 years ago I could get queens that proved first-class ones, and can not do it since coming south, looks as tho there were some other reason than injury by mailing. I have had queens from breeders in the North, in the central Southern States, and in the extreme Southern, and the results seem to be the same. I wish some one could tell me the reason why queens do not do as well here as they used to do in the North. I don't mean that the queens seemingly reach me in poorer condition, but that they prove much poorer for real business.

Another, and probably my strongest reason for not ordering queens from a distance, is the fact that fully one-half of the colonies which have been given these queens have developed bee-paralysis. These queens all have been from the ablest and most experienced queen-breeders in the United States, and men against whom there can not be the least suspicion of having knowingly sent out diseased stock. This is another one of the unexplainable things, especially so, as I do not know of any one else having the same experience. I have had practically to rid my apiary of all stock obtained from a distance, and their descendants.

The last few years I kept bees in Iowa, there were few things I did in the apiary that gave me better satisfaction than did the use of early queens from the South. I used to use from 25 to 50 every season. I could not only get them cheaper during the first half of June, than I could possibly rear them, but the getting them earlier than I could well rear them enabled me to use them at a decided profit. My general method of management was to prevent swarming as much as possible (usually keeping it down to 5 percent or less), thus keeping most of my colonies large and strong during the entire honey season. Increase was secured by taking nuclei from the strongest colonies early in June—



usually before the white clover honey-flow commenced—giving them these queens from the South. These nuclei thus given laying queens so much earlier than I could rear queens myself, would do enough better more than to pay first cost of the queens, be in better condition for the coming winter, and save me all the labor and expense of rearing extra early queens. No practical honey-producer in the North needs to be told what this means.

I observed closely for years, and could detect little or no difference between the quality of these queens and those of my own rearing, some of them proving among the best queens I ever owned. Were I now keeping bees any where in the North, I should make a very large use of early queens from the South. I should, of course, get them from as able and careful breeders as I could, and I don't think I should have any special fears of injury to queens in the mail.

Why queens would reach me all right when I was in Iowa, and don't do so in Florida, is one of the unexplained mysteries of bee-keeping. I only know the facts, not the reasons therefor. Perhaps some of the readers of the American Bee Journal can give us more light.

Dade Co., Fla.



### No. 13.—Interesting Notes on European Travel.

BY C. P. DADANT.

I HAVE well-nigh exhausted my subject, unless I take you on the ocean with me, or unless I take you to the place of my birth and make you acquainted with the companions of my young days, and show you in detail the narrow, winding streets of the old city, or the lonely rampart walls. You would wonder at the lack of life in their business streets, but would admire the whiteness of the houses, where coal smoke is unknown. You would wonder at the numbers of roaming dogs, at the habit the people have of walking in the middle of the street, owing to lack of room on the sidewalk where two people can not pass each other without one of them having to step off into the gutter.

In bee-culture you would see but little of interest, and yet we could not very well do without Europe and European bee-keepers. Did they not originally invent the movable frames, which Langstroth only made more practical by hanging them free from the inner walls all around? Did they not invent the first rudiments of comb foundation? Did they not give us the honey-extractor? the perforated zinc? Do they not, from time to time, give us the most interesting scientific experiments? The microscopic studies of Count Barbo, of Milan, made into 32 lithographs some 25 years ago, are yet at the head in the way of plain descriptions of the anatomical structure of the bee. But for practice, for production on a large scale, with the most economical results, give us America.



No. 1.—Bee-Shed of Mr. F. M. Wagner, of Adams Co., Ill.  
See page 131.



No. 2.—Bee-Shed of Mr. F. M. Wagner, of Adams Co., Ill.  
See page 131.

But it is strange to see the very deep ignorance of the masses concerning America, on the Old Continent. Somehow they have a very clear idea that we are all millionaires, all Vanderbilts, Goulds, or Rockefellers, but they can hardly separate our millionaires from the Indians and the buffaloes. To them the United States is a country full of machinery and wealth, and yet half savage. The geography of the new continent is one of the things to come. They have a faint idea of the location of Chicago—somewhere near New York, or on the big Salt Lake. After two months of travel I had to give up the idea of enlightening any one as to where I lived by saying "in Illinois." So I had become accustomed to using the term, "On the Mississippi." Once while traveling thru England I met a gentleman, who, after I had given him that answer, said, "Oh, very well. Do you live above Niagara Falls or below?" That is about the extent of the knowledge that most of my French acquaintances could show of the geography of the United States. Yet they are all very well acquainted with countries that seem to us rather remote. Africa, Madagascar, Siam, and China, seem to be very familiar. But those places have not built up as America did, and what answered in their geography 50 years ago is still about right at this day, while the growth of America makes a new map necessary every 10 years.

A reader of the American Bee Journal puts this question to me: "How would you like to go back to Europe to live?" Not at all. America is the country for me. I should like to re-visit the places I saw—I admire the beauties of the European cities, of their buildings, which are certainly more artistic and in better taste than our plain, square brick boxes, which we call business houses or factories. They do not have a 20-story sky-scraper by the side of an ugly 3-story square brick house as we do here; and around their monuments it seems as if a part of the ornaments had been lavished on all the surrounding buildings. This is true of either London or Paris. But give me America for pluck and enterprise. Give me America for a neat farmhouse, with a good barn far enough from it to keep the pigs and the manure smell out of the front yard. Here we have no peasants and there is an opportunity for every one.

America, in my mind, has been made what she is by her cosmopolitan condition. She draws from everywhere. All languages are hers. All nations join here, and each brings the knowledge and the views from his own. The Dane and the Spanish, the Italian and the English, the French and the German, all bring their customs, their habits, and from the friction of all these elements light is evolved. America is especially prone to adapt herself to all sorts of things. Nothing is good enough for her if something better is to be had, and altho we must acknowledge that the first results of

this mixture of so many things are many incognitivities, yet the general good is sure to come from the apparent chaos. It matters not whether a thing is English or German, or French, if it is good it is accepted here; while a good thing, over there, will not be acceptable if it comes from antipathic sources. "We have always done this way" is a very usual reply.

And not France alone is slow to take a proposed progress. The Anglo Saxons, who would have us think that they lead in every sort of progress, have strenuously opposed the introduction of the metric system, or of the decimal system in their money, because it was not decidedly English, no doubt, and they stick to their shillings and pennies and yards and pennyweights, while America bravely accepted the metric system, just because she saw that it was good. Visit an American farmer, then stay away 10 years and when you come back none of his implements of cultivation will be the same as 10 years before. He has outprogressed them all.

Even our new spelling reform shows that we are not content to remain stationary. I lately bought a new book, "Newest England," which treats of New Zealand and the wonderful reforms they are making there, faithfully trying co-operation, government ownership, and enough different forms of socialism to scare any conservative. Well, the writer of this book, who seems to love progress, still uses the English spelling—"valour, labour, neighbour, fervour, favourable, plough." If we have dropt the useless letters in so many words, why fall back—why not keep on improving? Or had we best go backwards and write "myrrour" for "mirror?"

But if the Europeans are slow to take hold, there is room for improvement here, too. The country is new and we try to go fast—too fast in some things. Our structures are often flimsy, our bridges insecure. Our roads are horrible, our architecture a salmagundi of all ages and styles. With our excellent railroad coaches, we have the most inefficient and expensive transportation. Our express companies "skin" us to the quick. We need parcel posts such as in Europe. While passing thru Paris, when first arriving in Europe, we had to give out some linen to wash, but could not get it back in time for our departure for the country. "I will send it to you by parcel-post," said the laundry-woman. "What, twenty pounds of linen?" "Why, yes, it will cost you 16 cents." And, sure enough, we received our linen, by mail, 20 miles away, for something less than a cent a pound.

While in Switzerland, a friend loaned me an umbrella, to go some miles in the rain. I askt how I could return it to him. "Oh, by mail." "By mail!" "Yes, it will cost you four cents."

How many of my readers know that we can send a half pound of samples of merchandise to any point in the Postal Union for half as much as it will cost to send the same package to our nearest post-office? Half a pound can be sent to the other side of the earth, or to the Fiji Islands, for four cents, while it will cost eight cents to send it to the post-office next to your own, in your own county. Yes, yes, America can learn something yet.

### The Long-Tongued Fallacy as Applied to Bees.

BY R. C. HUGENTOBLE.

ADMITTING that long tongues in one species of animal life can do wonders in extracting sweetness, and carrying it to their homes to be evaporated so as to make it more palatable to those who are fond of this sort of luxury, I am still extremely slow in applying this principle to *Apis mellifica*. It has been argued with much show of reason that the enormous yields of certain colonies of bees over all others, is attributable to their longer reach of tongue. The micrometer has argued long and eloquently in support of this theory, and the honeyed jury (I dare not say jurymen) have been deeply moved by the long tongue of counsel, and are actually measuring tongues with one another! It is not yet decided which has the longest tongue.

In order to defend the above theory successfully, it will be necessary, in comparing the results of labor, to have the short and the long tongues engaged on a flower whose chalice refuse to yield up any or all of the coveted treasure to the short tongues, and willingly bestow it upon the long ones.

In the summer of 1897, when the hills overlooking our town were robed in white, and guests by thousands sat down to the banquet of the flowers amid a glorious burst of

harmony, and drank the health of the same, I had one colony that gathered 140 pounds of nectar, choice enough for the gods. The average per colony of my entire apiary was 50 pounds. Was the large amount gathered by one colony due to long tongues? I answer no. Can not all honey-bees drain the chalices of white and sweet clover? And even if they could not drain the sparkling cups emitting inviting odors, what time be lost in such a sea of flowers? What need of cistern-pole when full unto the neck?

Again, in 1899 I had two colonies which gathered 100 pounds—double the amount stored by any of the balance of the apiary. That year,

Smiling May, she promist me that I might smack my lips;  
But later on grew cold toward me, as love to hate oft skips;  
And finally, with back to me, as she was going out,  
"I'll back again next season when time signals thee to rout."  
So, sore disheartened then was I;  
But when May's sister came along,  
She sang me her sweet-clover song  
Which pleased my ear and filled mine eye  
With joydrops for another year,  
Until sweet June should reappear.

So melting poetry to prose, we had a fine flow of nectar from a 20-acre field, 1¼ miles to the north, which had been furrowed by a flood and planted by that ready occupant—sweet clover. Learn of him thy opportunity to watch, and hold on with his might. He, an ardent lover of thin soil, sent his servants on weighty errands after treasure deeply hidden; which, when found and carried up, did intoxicate with delight my teeming kingdoms which, when frowning cloud and wind bore down on them, *en masse* came sailing on low down, till at flood-tide, they filled the main street of our town, scarce over my low head! Fair sight! Well worth a poet's eye!

We conclude then, that the superiority of one colony over many others in amount of nectar gathered, is due, not to the superiority of organs employed, but to superior industry which characterizes not only families and individuals in the lower kingdom of animal life, but families and individuals in the higher as well; and to argue that, in white clover and sweet-clover flows extending over periods of five weeks and three weeks, respectively, a particular colony manifested superior results in amount of labor performed because of a superior organ in its individuals, would be manifestly an error. Let us remember in breeding for long tongues to gather a doubtful amount of red-clover nectar (for the meager results from the bumble-bee indicate no purple goblets filled), that the characteristic energy of colonies is not dependent upon long tongues, tho they may accompany them. Nature, it seems, in the providence of God, has placed an apparently insurmountable barrier between *Apis mellifica* and the sparkling nectar in the rosy chalice, which, if overcome by the ingenuity of man, would doubtless yield some nectar, but, taking all things into consideration, be undesirable to all.

Hamilton Co., Ohio.

### Cuban Bee-Experiences—Honey and Wax.

BY GEO. ROCKENBAUGH.

THE rain has been coming down in torrents all day, making one feel like doing something desperate, but instead I came up here on the peaceful mission of writing to the "Old Reliable."

April 10, 1900, I thought I was going to leave Cuba for good, never to see my bees again. I was the most disappointed bee-keeper that ever struck this island, as it was no trifle to lose 475 colonies all in 10-frame hives with two supers on each, and each colony containing a young queen. When I first began to work this apiary some of the hives were rotten with what I pronounced foul brood, as some of the bees were shipt here from Havana city. But I do not now think that it is foul brood, as I tried the McEvoy plan but made a failure of it. Some of the native bee-keepers pronounce it chilled brood, pickled brood and bald-headed brood, caused by pollen that is poisonous to the brood.

Every colony that I have is very badly affected with paralysis, which is probably also caused by that same poisonous pollen, as their abdomens are swelled, and they act as they would in a bad case of constipation. I have tried many remedies, but none proved of any avail.

When I arrived here the second time—Oct. 15th—there were only 170 colonies left, the others having swarmed out, and the hives were badly cut inside with moths. I have extracted about 16,000 pounds of honey up to this time.



I have not been at all successful here in rearing queens on the Doolittle plan.

In Gleanings in Bee-Culture, T. Smith says that Editor Pender, of Australia, gives his experiments, and claims that 4 pounds of honey will produce one pound of wax. What a foolish thing to put into type, and how unreliable the statements are. I claim to be one of the sugar-honey experts of the United States, and I will give a more reliable statement as to how many pounds of sugar is required to secrete one pound of wax. I have written the following rule which can be relied upon as very nearly correct, according to my knowledge and judgment.

Twenty-four cubic inches of comb will hold one pound of honey, and one pound of comb honey contains one ounce of wax; therefore one pound of secreted scales turned into comb will hold 16 pounds of honey.

Now I am going to contradict myself right here, but let me digress a little. I don't know how it is, but it is a fact that it requires 3 pounds of sugar to produce one pound of comb honey. I have had good, strong colonies that have been fed with sugar syrup from June 10th to Sept. 10th—a Heddon feeder kept full at all times—yet I could never make the best colonies store much over 200 pounds of comb honey each.

Bees that are good comb-builders require about 12 pounds of honey to make 1 pound of wax, and I have had bees that were supposed to be poor comb-builders that required 16 pounds of honey to make 1 pound of wax.

From the foregoing one can readily see that producing sugar-honey, or feeding "any old thing" to produce wax, does not pay.

Cuba, Jan. 15.

## Questions and Answers.

CONDUCTED BY

DR. C. C. MILLER, Marengo, Ill.

(The Questions may be mailed to the Bee Journal office, or to Dr. Miller direct, when he will answer them here. Please do not ask the Doctor to send answers by mail.—EDITOR.)

### Saccharin as Bee-Food.

Some time ago I saw some remarks about saccharin as a bee-feed. Is it any cheaper than sugar for bee-feed? or is it injurious to bees? Where can it be obtained?

INDIANA.

ANSWER.—Saccharin is said to be 300 times sweeter than cane-sugar, but I think you will find a dollar's worth of granulated sugar better than a dollar's worth of saccharin for the bees. You can probably get it of your druggist. It will cost you something like 300 times as much as sugar, and while you may have as much sweetness in a pound of it as in 300 pounds of sugar, you would by no means have the same amount of nourishment. The amount of carbon would not be present.

### A Colony Taken From a Bee-Tree.

I found a bee-tree last fall rather late in the season, and I didn't like to cut it, but I was afraid some one else might come along and not think the same as I did. So the next day I went to work at it. I didn't think it would amount to very much, but I was after the bees, so after I cut the tree I got the hive ready to put in the bees. I was very careful about the work. The colony didn't seem to be very large, but after I had an opening big enough to look in, I was very much surprised. In place of the hive, I had to get two wash-tubs and a pail. Such a sight—nothing but honey, and yet plenty of bees also.

After I had all the honey out, I started to coax in the bees, but they wouldn't come. I had an 8-frame hive full of honey. I got them in once, all but a handful. I thought perhaps the queen was among them, but I could not find her there, and they all came out again. By evening, when it got a little cool, they took up a march to the hive once more, and very nearly all went in. Some got under the log.

I left the hive until the next morning, when I went back to look after the bees. When I got there they just started to come out, but I closed up the entrance and took them home, and placed them along side of my other bees,

and opened the entrance again. They started to fly just as fast as they could get out, for about two minutes, then they stopt. There were plenty of bees there yet, so I sat down and watcht them. Pretty soon, to my great surprise, I saw some of the bees coming back with pollen on their legs.

Now, what I want to get at is this: Do you think the queen is there? Why should they carry pollen, and not my other bees? If they have no queen, will it do to let them out all winter? They seem more noisy than my other bees.

ILLINOIS.

ANSWER.—Very likely the queen is all right. In any case it is best not to disturb them till spring. Then when bees fly freely, and you find brood in other hives, you can decide whether the queen is present by looking whether there is any brood. If no brood is present it may be your best plan to unite it with one of your weakest colonies that has a queen.

### Spacing Hives—Spring Feeding.

1. Is four feet from center to center too close for the hives in the row?

2. Will feeding bees when they are flying early in the spring give satisfaction? If not, why? ONTARIO.

ANSWER.—1. No; but here is something a little better that will allow more hives on the same ground. Set two hives side by side, with only two or three inches between them. Then leave a space of three or four feet and put another pair of hives close together, and so on. If you place a number of hives with only a few inches between them, there will be trouble about entering the wrong hives, but there will be no trouble when only two hives are placed close together.

2. Properly managed and under proper conditions it may give satisfaction. If weather is warm enough for bees to fly daily, and there is nothing they can get in the fields, the feeding may be a decided benefit. If the weather is somewhat chilly, so the bees do not fly freely, altho flying to some extent, feeding may induce the bees to fly out and become chilled.

### Ventilating the Supers.

I have been keeping bees for six years—just playing at it while in the ministry, and so keep only a few colonies. I am wintering 8 colonies, using dovetailed Langstroth 10-frame hives with Hoffman frames. I appreciate your answers to others very much, and so will ask one or two myself.

If a hole were bored in the end of a super with wire-cloth tacked over it—

1. Would the ventilation be helpful or harmful?

2. Would light entering in be helpful or harmful?

3. Would you advise boring a hole there?

4. If advisable to have a hole there, how large should it be? ILLINOIS.

ANSWERS.—1. I don't know.

2. I don't know.

3 and 4.—I would not advise it.

Now that I've answered all your questions, suppose we sit down and talk over the matter a little. Allow me first, by way of parenthesis, to congratulate you on your good judgment in choosing something so interesting to "play at" while working in the ministry. It seems just a little strange that there is so much difference between this country and Europe as to the proportion of the clergy engaged in bee-keeping. In Germany, especially, a very large number of leading bee-keepers are clergymen or professors and teachers in schools and colleges. When I say "leading bee-keepers" it does not necessarily follow that they devote their time mainly to bee-keeping, nor that they keep a large number of bees. But in their moments of leisure they give earnest attention to the subject, and are among those who have added most to our stock of knowledge on this most interesting subject. Father Langstroth, who brought about an entire revolution in bee-keeping, belonged to the clergy. So does Dr. Dzierzon, who has done more than any man living to advance bee-keeping.

But now to our subject. At one time I was on a visit to Adam Grimm, who was one of the leading apiculturists up to the time of his death. He was putting on surplus boxes (it was before the day of sections), and when he put the hive-cover over the boxes he propt up the back end of the cover something like an inch. As he was propping up one of the covers, he lookt up and said in his earnest

way, "I consider that very important." Mr. Grimm did not tell why he thought it important, and I think I didn't know enough to ask him. But I thought he was a safe man to follow, and as I adopted sections very shortly after that time, using double-tier wide frames with 56 sections in a super, I provided an opening as nearly like Mr. Grimm's as I could by shoving the super forward so as to make a space of one-fourth to one-half an inch at the back.

This worked quite satisfactorily, but a super with 56 sections was very heavy, and on some other accounts I was led to change to the T super, which I now use. With this I still kept the opening at the back by shoving the super forward. A difficulty that I had before noticed to some extent seemed now to be aggravated. The sections next the opening proceeded very slowly compared with the others. The opening to the outer air at this point prevented the bees from building comb to a considerable extent. So I gave up this opening, closing the hive entirely above, relying only on the ventilation from below.

After this change, however, the amount of swarming increased a great deal, making it look as if the ventilation right thru the hive had a good deal to do with keeping down swarming. Another thing helps greatly to strengthen that belief. For years I have generally had a few colonies that were allowed to have three or more stories, with a large opening to each story, the combs being used for extracting, or kept as store-combs. I do not remember that one of these colonies ever swarmed, and I attribute this immunity from swarming in a great measure to the large amount of ventilation.

In the light of all this, it would look as if it would be a good thing to have the ventilation you propose, providing you are working for extracted honey, the air and the light not being objectionable. With comb honey the hindrance to comb-building stands in the way. Wire-cloth over a ventilating hole is not needed, and the bees will be pretty sure to fill it up with bee-glue. It is hardly advisable to bore a hole in any case, for you can get better effects by shoving the super front or back. That distributes the ventilation, instead of having it all at one spot with the hole.

### Questions on Swarming.

In your book, "A Year Among the Bees," which I bought of you in the spring of 1887, you say on page 49, "When it comes time to put on supers, they (brood-frames) are reduced to 4 or 5 frames."

1. Do you still practice this contraction of the brood-chamber before swarming?
2. When a colony swarms do you hive the swarm in a contracted brood-chamber?
3. And if contracted or not, do you use starters or full sheets of foundation in brood-chamber?

NEW YORK.

ANSWERS.—1. Alas for the changeableness of bee-keeping—it is not safe to count on doing anything to-day the same as 15 years ago. Strictly speaking, I do not practice contraction now. Up to the time of putting on supers I give all the room needed for brood-rearing, even to two stories of 8 frames each, if the bees will use it. At the time of putting on supers I take away all but 8 of the best frames of brood, if the colony has more, and give it enough to make 8 if it has less. Some would say that is contracting, and some would say it is exchanging room in the super for room below. At any rate, my practice is to have each colony have 8 frames of brood at the time of putting on supers.

2. If I were hiving a swarm, I would give it four or five frames at hiving, and fill up about 10 days later.

3. I always use full sheets of foundation. I might do otherwise were it not for just one thing, and that is that I want to be sure of all worker-comb. One of the ablest of German bee-keepers, the late C. J. H. Gravenhorst, practiced giving a swarm four or five frames with narrow starters, counting that very little drone-comb would be built in them, and when they were filled giving enough combs or full sheets of foundation to fill out the hive.

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## \* The Afterthought. \*

The "Old Reliable" seen thru New and Unreliable Glasses.  
By E. E. HASTY, Sta. B Rural, Toledo, O.

THE BEE KEEPER AND THE BEE-SUPPLY DEALER.

In "Colorado's" letter and its replies, on pages 69 and 70, we have a first-class rumpus, albeit by no means a new one, and not likely to become a closed incident very soon. How much human nature we can see in man when we get him in print once! Man who doesn't like a situation seldom fully appreciated by the man who does like it. Just hear the latter fellow's replies pop off—as he talks of buying a car-load of supplies "sight unseen," and a thousand miles off. "Not so bad off as he imagines." "Do not consider the dilemma of our Colorado friend a serious one." "Very little trouble in getting or giving satisfaction." Ahem! And, in good sooth, if the fellow is plump and candid enough, we rather like him, at least to the extent of a good laugh. "Why should I contribute to make it perfectly safe for my customers to order of my competitor? If I have given them satisfaction, and no cause to complain, let them keep on buying of me." And when we get reminded that much of the trouble arises from our own too fierce cheapening of everything we would do well to stop and consider—yes, do a large amount of considering. First a pinch of "live" and then a pinch of "let live" should go in the peace-pipe which we are to smoke. The two little girls who *never* quarreled reported their secret to be, "Addie lets me and I let Addie." But, as to the manufacturing Addie, we don't quite see our way clear to "let Addie" while she is in her present frame of mind. For one thing she doesn't realize what a prodigious lot of mistakes—some annoying, some expensive, some both, but *not entirely spoiling the goods*—go out to her absent customers. I take it that part of these are scolded about a little, and salved over by a little apology, and the larger part never mentioned at all. Never mentioned because few of us enjoy making complaints, when we know in advance that they will never eventuate in anything except talk. A present-at-the-factory customer would say: "Fix this and this, and I'll take a thousand; otherwise I'll not touch 'em with a pole."

Remedy? Not sure there is any. The Falconer proposition seems the best mentioned. Pay half, and deposit the other half to be paid on satisfaction being reached. How would it do to employ some bee-man who lives within 25 miles of the factory to go and see your car-load of supplies on board? He couldn't see with your eyes nor feel with your feelings, as to faults mainly annoying or ill looking, but not seriously affecting the utility of the goods.

A TRICK THE BEES PLAYED.

That trick which Mr. Bauckman's bees played, page 60, was a very unusual one. It is unusual for a swarm to plunder the home hive, and again unusual for a plundered hive to survive and amount to something later on.

KEEPING BEES ON SHARES.

Yes, that's so; the man who is keeping your bees on shares can not be dismist very well if unsatisfactory. Also, if the season proves so bad as to afford no hope of anything to divide, he might take himself off without saying a word. You think your bees have a keeper when they are totally neglected. Page 66.

SO UNUTTERABLY UTTERED, YOU KNOW.

The Utter case being so "utterly utter," and all that's fairly utterable being already uttered, I think I'll skip it, and forbear to utter. (Oft thusly our bread findeth butter).

THAT GERMAN UNCAPPING FORK.

So Mr. Kreutzinger has an uncapping fork—but does not tell his editorial visitor whether he has ever "made it go" or no. Suspicious circumstance. Motors that never "mote" are not as a class a very hopeful class. Perchance the uncapping fork may be the idea of that kind of amateur who wants to lift off the cappings without taking *any* of the honey—and the amount of time it takes to do it may not appeal to his mind very strongly. Page 68.



## GENERAL ITEMS

### Good Prospects for a Crop.

My bees are wintering very nicely. They had a good flight Jan. 20th, and prospects are good for a crop of honey this year. I do not think white clover has been damaged any this year.

G. GLEYSTEN.

Sioux Co., Iowa, Feb. 14.

### Worms Destroying Alfalfa.

Bees are in fine condition. They bred up strong in October, so with plenty of first-class stores I expect them to come out all right in the spring. They did remarkably well last season after July, but almost nothing earlier. Worms took most of the first crop of alfalfa; I am told that these worms drove at least one family away from their home, crawling up the north side of their dwelling until they were two inches thick on the roof.

Our Colorado people are as much down on sweet clover as I was some years ago when I wrote it down in the American Bee Journal, and got a good drubbing for so doing. I am going to plant two pounds of it on my own land, "just for greens," and chance it. Some of our cattle men say if I do I will rue it.

The bee-industry in this country is in its infancy, tho I understand there are about 4,000 colonies of bees in the county. About a half dozen people own from 50 to 350 colonies each, and the balance are scattered mostly among people who are "just experimenting."

The prospects for the future are very bright indeed.

We have lately organized as the "Lamar, Colo., Bee-Keepers' Association," of which your humble servant has the honor to be corresponding secretary.

JAMES H. WING.

Prowers Co., Colo., Jan. 18.

P. S.—Pogonac (Tarlox) got back from Alaska in September, and says he found bumble-bees, also mason, carpenter, and tailor bees, 40 miles above the Arctic Circle.

J. H. W.

### Bee-Keeping in Clarke Co., Wash.

Mr. G. W. Durkee, of Wisconsin, a reader of the American Bee Journal, has sent me a letter with inquiries regarding bee-keeping in this part of the State of Washington, and thinking that there may be other readers likewise interested, I beg to answer Mr. Durkee thru this medium. The questions are as follows:

1. Are you located near the Columbia River?
2. Do you have basswood, white clover, sweet clover, and honey-dew?
3. What is your average surplus per colony in a fair season?
4. What does honey sell for?
5. How do you winter your bees?
6. What do sections and foundation cost out there?
7. What are bees worth per colony?
8. Is there any opening for a bee-keeper in Clarke County?

G. W. DURKEE.

ANSWERS.—1. Yes, on the edge of the highland joining the lowlands along the river. White clover, fire-weed, and Spanish-needle furnish the main part of the surplus honey, in the order named.

2. We have no basswood and sweet clover, but once in a great while we get some honey-dew, very rank in flavor. But in average winters this stuff is all right for stores, as bees here are seldom prevented from having a good flight for more than a couple of weeks at a time.

3. This question I am unable to answer further than what I have stated in my reports in this paper.

4. Look up the market quotations in this paper for San Francisco, and add to those prices about one cent for comb and one-half cent for extracted honey, and you will come very near the prices that honey sells for at wholesale in Portland, Oreg. Of course, if you are not your own salesman you will have

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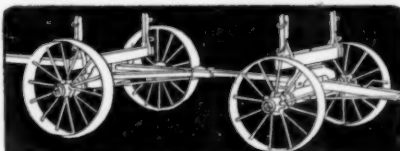
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## ELECTRIC HANDY WAGON.

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to deduct freight, commission, breakage, etc., to get the net prices realized by the producer.

5. I winter the bees in one-story single-walled hives. I put two sticks  $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{4} \times 11$  inches crosswise on the top of the frames, then a burlap hive-cloth, and one-half dozen double sheets of newspapers and the flat hive-cover, and on top of this the shade-board to keep off the rain. In the coldest part of winter I leave the whole entrance  $\frac{3}{4} \times 12$  inches open, and when spring arrives, generally in February, I again contract the entrance to about  $\frac{3}{4} \times 3$  or 4 inches for an average colony, as by this time when the bees are flying more or less every day, they are better able to keep their combs and inside of the hives free from dampness and mold, and it also assists the bees in keeping up the temperature to rear their young. I have no doubt it would pay in this mild climate to use more packing on the top of the brood-frames than I do, for then so much ventilation would not need to be given thru the entrance in cold weather, and the consumption of winter stores would not be so great. However, my bees have come thru the winter in good condition, with a loss of a very few colonies, and I have never used more packing than mentioned above.

6. Sections are high in price. I have a 1901 catalog issued by a firm in Portland, Oreg. In it No. 1 sections are quoted \$4.75 per 1,000, and foundation from 50 cents per pound for heavy brood to 65 cents per pound for extra-thin, in 10 pound lots. If you come out here to start in bee-keeping, I would advise you to purchase a Barnes foot-power saw and make your own sections, frames, hives, etc. Lumber is cheap. While we have no basswood, spruce is plentiful, cheap, and good to make sections from. I have found Oregon and Washington cedar to be the best material I know of for hives and frames. Any man with average intelligence can make his own hives, frames, sections, etc., with the saw mentioned above, and come out ahead with his bee-business, even after a poor season, when money is scarce with the bee-keeper. Of course, if you haven't it I would advise you to get the "A B C of Bee-Culture," and read the directions there given for making hives, and the proper use of the Barnes saw. (As I have no ax to grind, I hope the editor will not object to the special recommendations given to the saw and the book, as I give it solely for the benefit of bee-keepers, and write from actual experience. I feel that I owe so much of my success in bee-keeping to the American Bee Journal, with all its beloved and able writers, that I want to do what I can towards paying a little of my debt.)

7. Bees can be bought in box-hives from farmers here at all prices, from \$1.00 to \$2.50, but of course it takes time to gather up enough bees in that way to make a reasonably good start, and you will perhaps also have to call on bee-keepers who ask from \$5 to \$8 per colony for bees in one-story dovetailed hives.

8. There is very little territory in Clarke County worth anything for a specialist bee-keeper that is not already occupied, but there are good locations farther down and along the Columbia River.

T. H. WAALE.

Clarke Co., Wash., Jan. 26.

### Bees Cleaning Up Unfinished Sections

As autumn was closing I had 50 pounds of honey in unfinished sections. As I desired to use these for baits the coming season, I concluded to let the bees empty them by placing them in tiers (and myself in the same position), and allowing but one bee to enter at a time; but having a rich neighbor owning bees on the square above me (I own mine on the square also, tho very much encumbered), I concluded it would be unwise to allow him even a small "sphere of influence" lest he overrun my kingdom with his own; so I began forthwith the tedious process of uncapping and extracting the entire lot of unfinished sections. After they were all uncapped and tiered about 30 feet to the westward of my western row of hives, and the bees had been working on them for some time, I was attracted by the buzzing industry about that bee-space. Watching with high admiration the opposing columns, as first one, then the other, gained the ascendancy, now pouring



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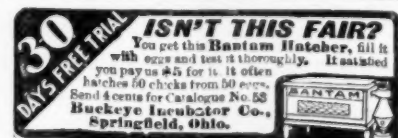
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into, now out of, now gorging the entrance, I discovered that the rich man was becoming richer, and the poor man poorer. As a neighbor sometimes keeps his own by knowing what a neighbor hath, so I have since done. Knowing that my neighbor's bees were all blacks, and a good share of mine Italians, my curiosity was aroused until it stood on tiptoe. Peering from a window I beheld their black craft as they sped on their course to their place of mooring. Ne'er was merchant-man so freighted, tho' loaded to the water's edge, and well-nigh unto drinking. To and fro they plied twixt rich and poor. Not a sail from Italy's sunny strand e'er hove in sight! My neighbor's blacks had found the treasure, staked their claim, and asserted "priority of occupation."

Again, last autumn's glow, I piled a score of hives up in three tiers. Italy's fair colors now fanned the breezes as they bore down upon the discovery, and sped to tell the news to ready listening ears that waited word to spread all sail. But three or four of my colonies were thus engaged in the carrying trade, while my neighbor's and 80 of my own were not plying an oar. Thus, it seems, that given but a bee-space the discoverers had planted their standard on the new-found shore, and taken possession in the name of their queen.

R. C. HUGENTOBLE.

Hamilton Co., Ohio, Jan. 7.

## Bees Did Fairly Well—12-Pound Cases.

I have 82 colonies of bees, 30 in 8-frame dovetailed hives, and 52 in ho-ne-made hives. I intend transferring them all to standard hives. They are in fine condition, and have about 100 pounds each of honey to build up on this spring.

I have had some experience with bee-paralysis. I simply kill the old queen, and rear a new one from my best stock. But if I let them alone they will die within three years.

I sold honey in one-pound sections in 12-pound shipping-cases—the first ever sold here—and it went like hot-cakes; I could not supply the demand.

My bees have not done very well the past three years, tho' I have secured from 1,000 to 1,500 pounds of honey each year, while my neighbors got none. Why? Because I take the American Bee Journal. When I first began taking it people laughed at me, but they have stopt it, as they see that I get the money, and I still take the Bee Journal. I can't get one of them to take it, tho'. But let it still continue to come to help me out of my troubles, as it always has done.

A. R. YANDELL.

Scott Co., Ark., Jan. 30.

## Requeening—Red Clover Honey.

In requeening some of my colonies last season I took two frames with the queen from one of my strongest colonies, giving the remaining brood one of my imported queens from Italy. Thus I had good eggs and larvae from my first colony to rear queens from, and got a fine lot of queen-cells drawn out. On the eleventh day I took the queens from the colonies that I wanted to requeen, and by the next day the bees had learned that they had no queen. On the morning of the twelfth, after the brood had been exchanged, I cut out the queen-cells that suited me, putting one in each hive between two frames and at the top, taking care that the sides of the cells were protected, as I never knew the bees to cut a queen-cell at the end. Within three days the young queens had hatched, and the bees had received them, and in from five to eight days I had young laying queens. I requeened eight colonies by this method, and did not lose one. I tried a few on the nucleus plan after the queen had been laying, and lost two out of five, so I like the new way better if it continues to work as well as on the start. But if it should work as some of our experiments with the bees do, I may change my mind, for sometimes when we think we have attained perfection in some of our work with the bees, they let us know that we are not yet master of all their ways, and upset all of our plans. So I have learned that other creatures have some rights in the way of following the plans



of the great Creator, and are harder to lead astray than a good many people.

Bees did little more than get a living here the past season. I had only a few colonies that stored any surplus, and a good deal of that was from red clover, so I have had the pleasure of eating some red clover honey, and think it very fine.

I am keeping only a few bees, as I am not able to do much work, but what few I have I want as good as can be had, the same as I did when I was looking for a wife.

ARTHUR A. HOUSER.

McDonough Co., Ill., Jan. 31.

### Poor Season—Bee-Literature.

Last season was a very poor one with me, as my bees swarmed too much. The colonies in 12-frame hives, which I was running for extracted honey, swarmed, and I put them back, removing two frames of brood and giving them frames of foundation, and that put an end to their swarming. They went to work and stored more honey than those in the 10-frame hives. My crop of comb honey was away behind what it usually is.

I have 20 colonies in double-walled hives in good condition. I winter the bees on the summer stands, and have very few losses—none last winter. I make my own hives.

I began taking the Bee Journal when I began keeping bees, and have learned all that I know about bee-keeping from it. I would like to have my bee-keeping friends subscribe for it; I tell them of the advantage in being a reader of the Journal, and give them copies to read, but they seem to think they know enough without it. I tell them to look at the honey I get, when they get only a few half-finished sections. My bees are Italians.

JAMES LAIDLAW.

Ontario, Canada, Dec. 31, 1900.

### In Winter Time—Bee-Keeping in Maine.

Now that the bees are all quietly dozing away the long winter days and nights, tiered up in their winter quarters, or snugly packed on the summer stands; the numerous odds and ends consigned to the wood-pile, and the necessary material stowed away under cover, awaiting the opening of another spring campaign—the busy bee-keeper has ample time to reflect on his past conduct; make new resolutions; reread some of the articles in his favorite bee-paper that he only half read during the busy season; build that "non-swarming hive" which he knows will work to perfection; and occasionally write an article for the bee-keeping fraternity, telling them how he has discovered a method that will revolutionize the industry!

If he has been observing—as most bee-keepers are—he has learned some things that he will have to learn all over another way, the next season—some things he has learned for a positive fact. That big crop of honey he was going to harvest is a sweet reality, or a dismal mistake—more often the latter.

Perhaps he has tried the different strains of bees, and thinks he has satisfied himself as to which is the best, or is still perplexed about it. Well, he can at least tell what he *thinks*, and the laws of this free, expanding country will

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not prohibit him from believing it, tho others disagree.

That bee-keeper who has been asleep for 20 years (page 777, 1900) seems to be wide-awake enough now, and after Prof. Cook. Very good. It is just such chases as this that bring out facts. I wonder if he dreamed those things during his 20 years' nap. If so, like Daniel of old, he feels that "the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure." My own observations compel me to agree with him in the main. Experiences similar to this make me think that in the majority of cases an issuing swarm does not know where its future home is to be. But in some instances I think they do know where they intend to "pitch their tent." Two instances came to my notice last summer, where swarms left for parts unknown. One, after going about a half mile, clustered again, and remained there thru the night and until nearly noon the next day. The other was found on a fence a mile or more from the nearest apiary, where it remained two days and two nights after it was discovered. I do not know how long it had been there before it was found.

On the other side of the argument: Two seasons ago a large swarm of hybrid Italians—the largest I ever saw—left for the woods as I was about to take them down. They started in a direction a little south of west. I threw several pails of water among them with a hand-spray pump. Tho it didn't stop them it turned them from the direction in which they were going, and headed them northwest. I followed them until they tired of my company, tho I was not at all tired! They were now working toward the south. They past a neighbor's mile from the apiary, and then turned their course again. It seemed to me that they were making for a certain place. I have an idea, but not much proof to offer, that a prime swarm is more likely to have a future home in view than an after-swarm.

I believe that for some localities the black or German bee is a better all-around bee than the Italian, especially if working for comb honey. I think—tho my experience will hardly warrant my expressing views on the subject—that if the same amount of labor and time had been spent improving the black bee that has been spent in improving the Italian, it would be a much better bee for the localities where the season is short, and perhaps compare favorably where the season is longer. I have been trying the Italians and the crosses for the past four seasons, and so far the blacks have proven the most profitable. If there were a demand for bees I should want the Italians for profit every time.

In this county the bees can be put back on the summer stands about the middle of April. If the weather is fine there is usually enough honey to keep up brood-rearing nicely, until about the middle of June, when white clover begins to bloom; then the main flow is on which lasts about three weeks. Very little swarming occurs before the beginning of the flow. The blacks, if strong, will usually cast one or two swarms, and then devote their time to storing honey, while the Italians can be depended upon to swarm twice, three times, or even more. In 10 to 20 days the prime swarm can be expected to repeat the performance. I have had them swarm repeatedly before the frames were full of comb. Perhaps I have been unfortunate in the strains of Italians I have secured, but I have had queens from Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas. The Texas strain was less given to swarming, better comb-builders, and worked more readily in the sections. It is only justice to say that I think the Italians could be handled so that they would produce as much—or possibly more—honey in this county, but it would require more labor and attention. If I succeed in doing this I will tell of it later on.

O. B. GRIFFIN.

Aroostook Co., Maine, Dec. 20, 1900.

### Poor Season—Wintering Bees, Etc.

Last season was a poor one from beginning to end. There were plenty of flowers, plenty of rain, plenty of bees to gather the honey, and everything suitable for a good honey crop, but there seemed to be no nectar secreted

in the blossoms. Can any one tell why there was not?

The absence of zero weather this winter (with the exception of one day—Dec. 31st), has been a very desirable feature in the wintering of bees in this locality. There were several days in November and December when the bees had a good, cleansing flight, and many days when they couldn't fly they could move their positions inside of the hive, to reach their stores. This state of affairs almost insures safe wintering. Very little snow has fallen thus far (Jan. 3d).

My losses in wintering during the winter of 1899 and 1900 nearly wiped my apiary from the face of the earth, hence my attention has been drawn to other means of making a living, yet the old love for the business still remains, and to give up a calling that I have followed for 20 years or more seems a hard thing to do. The pleasure one derives from a business he loves to follow is hard to estimate. Altho my losses have been very heavy during the past three years, I still take three of the best bee-papers, and have kept informed along the line of new improvements.

I am wintering my 22 colonies on the summer stands, in chaff or double-walled hives, protected on the north and west sides by corn-fodder set up around them to break the north-west winds. If such protection had been given them two years ago, when my loss was so heavy, I think a large percent of them would have been saved. A high board fence, or some protection on the north and west, is very essential in wintering bees on the summer stands, and in the end saves many times the cost of such a construction.

Altho my bee-keeping experience extends back for more than 20 years, my knowledge is still quite limited. I learn something nearly every day, either from the bees or by the reading of the experiences of others in the bee-papers.

White clover abounds in this locality, and promises a fair crop next season. The yellow and white sweet clover varieties are also getting a start around here.

The "Old Reliable" comes to my desk every week as regularly as the clock strikes the noon hour every day. I am glad to note that many improvements have been made in its make-up and in the valuable matter it contains from week to week. I wish all the readers of it, and the Bee Journal itself, a prosperous year and a bountiful harvest.

Cass Co., Nebr., Jan. 3. J. M. YOUNG.

### California Smiles.

I notice in a recent issue of the American Bee Journal that I am quoted as holding rather pessimistic views in respect to the rainfall and honey prospects in this State. Well, matters have changed since the publication of that, and now we are optimistic. Things are favorable and almost certain for a good honey-yield.

We have had an abundance of rain during the past 10 days, and vegetation is coming forward with a rank growth. The sages, altho somewhat killed out during the past three years, are making a good growth, and a new growth is putting forth with vigor. Bee-keepers are putting forth also, with the expectation of a honey-yield. Bees are in demand, and I recently learned of the sale of 200 colonies for \$1,000—an extra-good price for this country. There has been over 12 inches of rain up to date, and more coming.

THE RAMBLER.

Ventura Co., Calif., Feb. 6.

### 1900 a Failure—A Wheat Country.

The past season was a poor one for honey in this locality. I did not get any, and about the only man that did was an old gentleman that never takes a bee-paper. He secured about 200 pounds of nice white honey; he has a near neighbor that raised alfalfa, and the bees got it from that source. I have tried to get him to take the Bee Journal, but he refuses, saying that if he did he would not change his way of keeping bees.

I have seen a good many bee-keepers this winter, and all report 1900 a poor year, and most say it was a failure. Well, I had the fun if I didn't get a crop of honey. I will sell

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a part of my bees in the spring, and run what I keep for comb honey.

This is a farming district, and the crop is mostly wheat. Last year it rained soon after the fields were cleared of crops, then the plowing began, and bee-feed was turned under before it had time to bloom. This county is the banner county of the State for wheat.

SAMPSON STOUT.

Sumner Co., Kans., Jan. 28.

### Some Queen Experiences—Cooling Wax.

The question, Why should a colony refuse to kill the old queen when she has stopt laying, and a young queen has emerged, the colony finally swarming with the old queen that was clipt, there being no eggs or uncapt brood, and but little capt brood in the cells? was asked by me at the National convention, but as I was not in attendance when it was brought before the convention, I will relate the facts as they occurred:

It was the first week in August, and I was not expecting any swarms under the prevailing conditions, but while working in my store-house for bee-supplies, etc., I noticed a commotion among the bees, and upon investigation found a swarm in the air. I soon found whence they came, and as I wanted some increase I secured a new hive, which I placed on the old stand, putting the old colony on a new stand. The swarm soon returned, the old clipt queen being with them. After a little time I went to see how the swarm took to the new hive, and found nearly all of them clustered on the bottom of it, so I used the smoker to drive them back. I thought something must be wrong, so I opened the old hive and found a young queen, which I killed. Upon further examination I found that the frames did not contain a single egg or any uncapt brood, and but very little capt brood, and several queen-cells in which were queens about ready to emerge. I killed all the queens, including the clipt one with the swarm, and gave each colony young larva from Italian queens from which to rear others. In about 8 or 10 days I became so dissatisfied with the Italian queen from which the larva was taken that I went to one of the hives into which was put the frame of brood, larva and eggs, and to my astonishment I found a line of queen-cells built around the lower part and on both sides of the frame. I counted them, and found that there were 60 capt queen-cells. I destroyed these and transferred the just-hatched larva to the uncapt cells, and they were accepted and hatch into fine queens. I do not know if such things happen frequently, or whether they are freaks, but I know positively that the above occurred.

I bought and reared a number of queens during the past season, which were introduced without a single failure. I think there is no excuse for losing queens thru introducing, if the proper course is pursued, and precautions taken. Always be sure there are no queen-cells and no queen in the hive before releasing the new queen. Leave the caged queen in the hive two or three days, and let the releasing be done by the bees eating thru the candy. It is better to introduce queens during a honey-flow, as they are more readily accepted at that time.

In regard to the cooling of wax, I be-



lieve that the longer the wax is in cooling, and the longer it is in the liquid state, the clearer it is of dirt. Slow cooling might not make any difference in the quality of the wax after it had past a certain temperature, but fast cooling will almost always cause it to crack, and this I wish to avoid. As a rule, when I extract wax I have quite a lot of it which I pour into large pans placed upon the floor, and cover with sacks and such available material, and it is generally satisfactory.

The honey crop was short in this locality the past season, and white clover was a failure. I have made a practice of stimulative feeding for several years, and I think it pays when properly done. The early spring and until after fruit-bloom was exceptionally good. After fruit-bloom I began feeding, using the Boardman feeder early in the morning. I continued to feed until within a week of basswood bloom when I discontinued, thinking the bees were getting enough from the fields to keep them up until the basswood flow. But by that time nearly all were light in honey, tho very strong in bees, and it took the first three days to fill up below. Then the weather became so cold that it threatened frost, and for about four days they stored but little honey. The colony on the scales stored 8½ pounds. There being but little fall honey, and October being such a warm month, bees flew nearly every day, using up their stores, so quite a number of colonies were a little light when the time

came to put them into the cellar. But we hope for better years to come.

I enjoy reading the report of the National convention, and I think all bee-keepers should be subscribers to the American Bee Journal.

G. H. FREY.

Linn Co., Iowa, Jan. 10.

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## HONEY AND BEESWAX

MARKET QUOTATIONS.

CHICAGO, Feb. 19.—Fancy white comb, 16c; No. 1 white comb, 14@15c; fancy amber, 12@13c; No. 1 amber, 10@11c; fancy dark, 10c; No. 1 dark, 8@9c. White extracted, 7½@8c; amber, 6½@7½c; dark, 6¼c. Beeswax, 28c.

R. A. BURNETT & Co.

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 19.—Fancy white comb, 16@16½c; amber, 12@13c; dark, 10c. Extracted, light, 9c; amber, 7½@8½c. Demand fair; receipts light. Beeswax, 22@28c.

W. R. CROMWELL PRODUCE Co.,  
Successors to C. C. Clemons & Co.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 9.—The market for comb honey is becoming very bare, altho the prices have not changed. Fancy white comb is still selling for 16c; no demand for darker grades. Extracted is in fair demand; dark sells for 5½c; better grades from 6½@8c; only white clover brings from 8½@9c. Beeswax, 28c.

C. H. W. WEBER.

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 11.—Honey market is dull and prices nominal; light stock, but the cold weather is bad for it. Comb, in good order, not candied, white, 15@16c; mixt, 13@14c; dark and buckwheat, 11@12c. Extracted, white, 7@8c; mixt, 6@6½c; dark, 5½@6c.

H. R. WRIGHT.

BUFFALO, Feb. 8.—Some more active this week, and may clean up better than expected awhile ago. Fancy 1-pound comb, 15@16c; No. 1, 14@15c; No. 2, 12@13c; dark, buckwheat, etc., 8@10c. Beeswax, 25@28c. BATTERSON & CO.

BOSTON, Feb. 8.—Fancy No. 1 white in cartons, 17c; A No. 1, 16c; No. 1, 15@16c, with a fairly good demand. Absolutely no call for dark honey this year. Extracted, white, 8@8½c; light amber, 7½@8c. Beeswax, 27c.

BLAKE, SCOTT & LEE.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—Comb honey is being well cleaned up on our market. The demand has lessened to quite an extent, on account, we presume, of the high prices which have been ruling. Fancy white still brings 15@16c in a small way; No. 1 white, 13@14c; amber, 11@12c; buckwheat, 10c. Extracted rather dull and not much doing. California white honey, 7½@8c a pound; light amber, 7c; Southern, from 60 to 70c per gallon; buckwheat, 5@5½c. Beeswax steady at 28c.

HILDRETH & SEGLEEN

DETROIT, Jan. 19.—Fancy white comb, 15@16c; No. 1, 13@14c; dark and amber, 12@13c. Extracted, white, 7@7½c; amber and dark, 6@6½c. Beeswax, 26@27c.

M. H. HUNT & SON.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 6.—White comb 13@14c; amber, 11½@12½c; dark, 8@9c. Extracted, white, 7½@8c; light amber 6½@7½c; amber, 5½@6½c. Beeswax, 26@28c.

Considering the light output of honey last spring from California apiaries, present offerings are of tolerably liberal volume and are mostly of amber grades. The market is slow at the quotations. It is reported on good authority that adulterated and imitation honey is being dealt out in considerable quantity, which accounts in a great measure for the very limited business doing in the pure article.

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